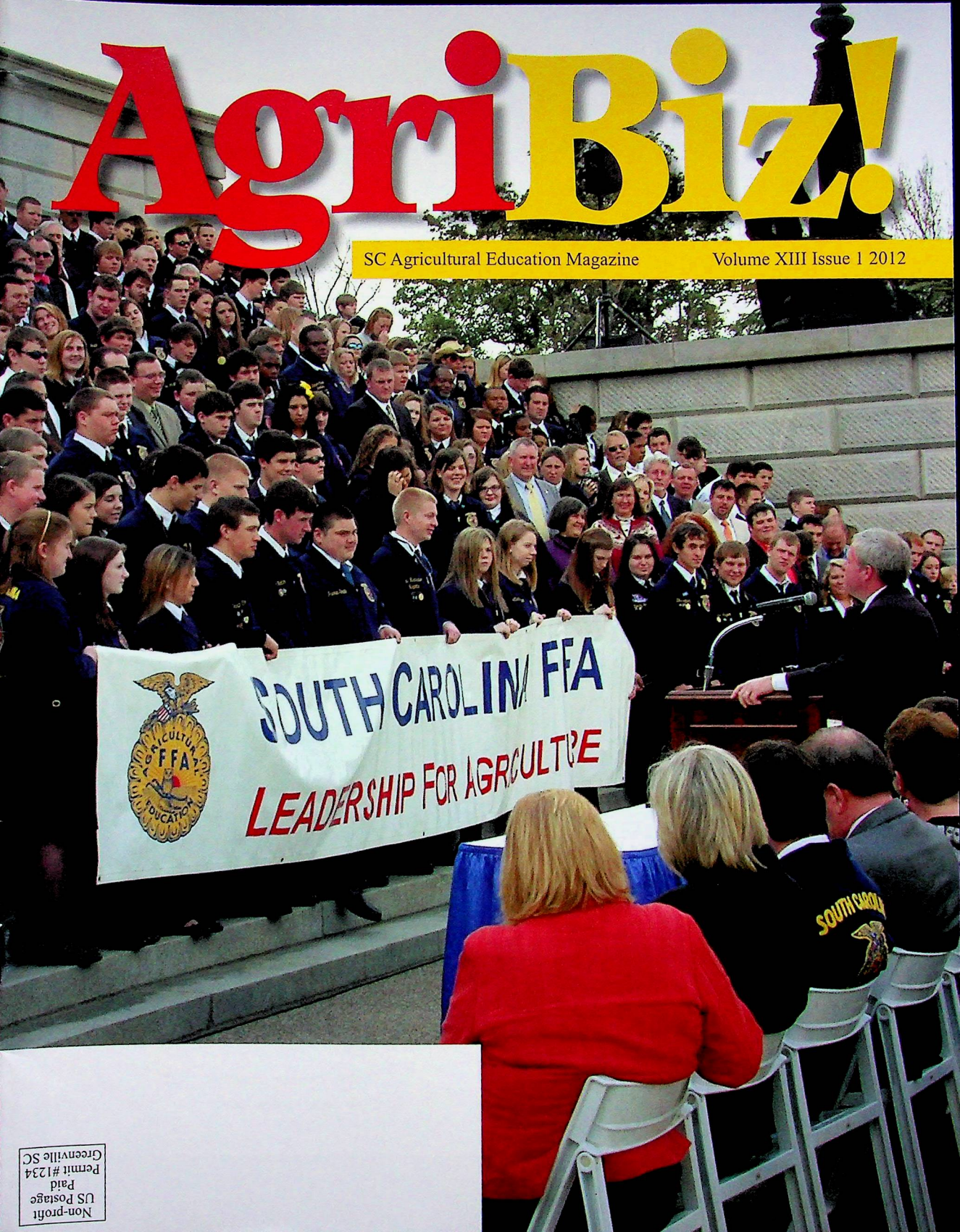


# AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Volume XIII Issue 1 2012



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Clinton Henderson III

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## Spring/Summer Calendar of Events

April 7	State Livestock CDE
April 16	Lower State Region Teachers Meeting
April 17	Piedmont, Mid-State, and Pee Dee Teachers Meeting
April 17	Statehouse Plant Presentation
April 18	Super Saturday – CDE's: Tractor, Tool ID, Poultry, Dairy Foods, Agronomy
April 21	Forestry CDE
May 5	Lower State Leadership CDE
May 8	Pee Dee Leadership CDE
May 10	Piedmont Leadership CDE
May 15	Camp Registration Deadline
June 6-8	FFA State Convention
June 11-15	FFA Camp – Session 1
June 18-22	FFA Camp – Session 2
June 24-27	Education and Business Summit
June 25-29	FFA Camp – Session 3
July 18-19	SCAAE Summer Conference
July 20-21	Young Farmer Summer Tour
July 31-Aug 3	FFA Leadership Camp



# FFA Members Attend Legislator Appreciation Day



Hundreds of high school agricultural education students attended the SC FFA-sponsored Legislators Appreciation Ceremony in Columbia on February 22, 2012.

The FFA members spent the morning visiting with their Senators and House members. Later the group assembled on the North steps of the State Capitol for a special recognition ceremony. The event got under way with the Presentation of Colors by Manning FFA members Caleb Elms, Si'Quena Witherspoon, Tiffany Chick and Nikki Harrison. Pelion FFA member Cameron Padgett sang a beautiful rendition of the national anthem.

State Representative Nelson L. Hardwick, of Horry County, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented the Governor's Proclamation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of Governor Haley. This was in recognition of National FFA Week February 18-25, 2012.

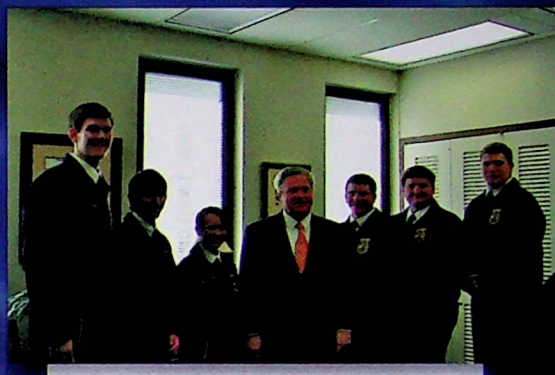
State Senator Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, presented a Concurrent Resolution of Recognition and Commendation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of all the members of the SC General Assembly.

The State FFA Officers, on behalf of the National FFA Organization, presented the prestigious Honorary American FFA Degree to Charlotte Swafford an Accountant and Fiscal Analyst for the School of Agricultural, Forest, & Environmental Sciences (SAFES). The purpose of the Honorary American degree is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to agricultural education and the FFA program.

The 2011-12 State FFA Officers conducted the ceremony at the South Carolina State House. They are: State President Perry Loftis of the Crescent Chapter, State Secretary Cody Bishop from the Edisto chapter, and State Vice Presidents Curt Berry from the Saluda chapter, Logan Layne from the Manning chapter, Nikki Hayden from the Lakewood chapter and Trevor Stamey from the Anderson chapter.

The week of George Washington's birthday was designated as National FFA Week in 1947 at a National FFA Board of Directors meeting. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Washington's Birthday.

The FFA positively influences the young people of America by developing character and leadership skills, and preparing members for successful careers. FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow. Through agricultural education and hands-on learning, FFA members are preparing for more than 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries of agriculture. With more than half-a-million members, the



*State Officers with Sen. Danny Verdin*



*State Officers with Rep. Nelson Hardwick*



*State Officers meet with Rep. Bill Owens, Chairman of the House Education Committee*



# State Farmer of the Year



The SCYFAA Farmer of the Year is Ernie Major from the Belton Honea Path Chapter. After graduating from Clemson University with an Agricultural Education Degree, Ernie decided to move back to the family farm. Once he demonstrated his determination to farm, his father offered him a 50/50 partnership in the operation. Gradually Ernie has taken the lead role in the farm operation.

Ernie's farming operation can best be described as diversified. The operation includes row crops;

including soybeans, cotton, corn, milo and wheat. In addition to the row crop operation, Ernie manages a beef cattle herd and a swine operation. He also grows bermuda grass hay to use with the cattle operation and to sell to others. For additional diversification, he also developed a market for wheat straw.

Ernie believes that a successful business is as much about keeping cost down as it is about producing income. One way that he does this is by making sure that he has the necessary equipment to ensure that his time is spent in the field and not in the shop. Ernie understands that this sometimes means that new machinery must be purchased but he also believes in maintaining what he has. He utilizes his mechanical skills to construct both trailers and buildings that are necessary to maintain the equipment.

Labor cost is another area that Ernie works carefully to manage. By having the proper equipment, he can reduce the required manpower and make transportation of crops more efficient. In addition he is careful in choosing crops based on planting dates. This has allowed him to get by primarily with seasonal labor. He works with his local Agriculture Teacher to utilize high school students. Ernie is also a good steward of the land where he has numerous conservation contracts, as well as using both minimum till and no till practices.

Ernie is a past member of the FFA at Belton Honea Path where Mr. Harold Mackey was his Agriculture Teacher. Today, he is an active member of the Belton-Honea Path Young Farmer Chapter where his Advisor is Glenn Stevens.

The Award is sponsored by Ag South Farm Credit.

## Randy Floyd Named as State Agribusiness Person of the Year



The SCYFAA Agribusiness Person of the Year is Randy Floyd of the East Clarendon Chapter.

Randy is the owner / manager of Floyd's Fertilizer. Floyd's Fertilizer sells agriculture chemicals, fertilizers and lime, and custom treated seed.

In 1975 Randy's father, Carlysle Floyd, formed Floyd's warehouse with one employee, which started the family business. In 1988, a fertilizer blender was added and the company began the custom mixing of fertilizers. Today Floyd's Fertilizer LLC is one

of the few independent dealers in SC with 15 employees and a 300% increase in the customer base. They currently operate four Vector spreaders, which increased the speed and efficiency of the operation. Randy has converted over 90% of the spreading to precision agriculture, field mapping and variable rate fertilizer spreading. He has also installed a seed treatment facility with 6 bulk seed storage tanks to custom treat seeds with inoculants, insecticides and fungicides at the request and needs of the customer.

With the future of the family business in mind, an 80,000 sq/ft building was purchased, and most of the operation will be relocated this year.

Randy is an active member of the East Clarendon Young Farmer Chapter where his advisor is Bert Beasley.

The Award is sponsored by Arbor One.



*Johnny Watt – Pee Dee Farmer of the Year from the East Clarendon Chapter with his Advisor, Bert Beasley and Karen Baxley of Ag South Farm Credit*



*Al Dannely - Lower-State Farmer of the Year from the Colleton-Bamberg Chapter with Karen Baxley of AgSouth Farm Credit.*



*Brian Latimer - Piedmont Agribusiness Person of the Year from the Belton-Honea Path Chapter with his Advisor Glenn Stevens and Chris Bradham with Arbor One.*



*Russ Miller - Mid-State Agribusiness Person of the Year from the Saluda Chapter with his Advisor is Amanda*



# SCYFAA Award Winners

## Irrigated Corn

Reggie Caughman  
Lee County Chapter

## Non-Irrigated Corn

Reggie Caughman  
Lee County Chapter

## Non-Irrigated Soybeans

Kayson Strickland  
Green Sea Floyds Chapter

## Irrigated Soybeans

Reggie Caughman  
Lee County Chapter

## Cotton

Ricky Kneece  
Pelion Chapter

## Peanuts

Richard Rentz  
Colleton-Bamberg Chapter

## Small Grain

Brad Elliot  
Green Sea Floyds Chapter

## Beef Cattle

William L. Bowman Jr.  
Crescent Chapter

## Energy Efficiency

Tim Kelley  
Crescent Chapter

## Horticulture

Brian Latimer  
Belton Honca Path Chapter

## Conservation

Frank McLeod  
Sumter Chapter

## Farm Shop

Ricky McDaniel  
Sumter Chapter

## Advisor of the Year

Mindy Sandifer  
Colleton-Bamberg Chapter

## Chapter President Award

Jeremy Holtzclaw  
Crescent Chapter

## Chapter of the Year

Crescent

## Outstanding Service

Lee Pettigout  
Chester Chapter

Richard Rentz

Colleton-Bamberg Chapter

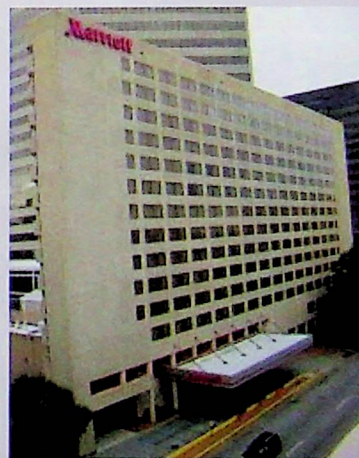
# SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association Holds State Convention in Columbia

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association experienced a successful state conference at the Marriott Hotel located in Columbia on January 20-21, 2012.

The conference program began on Friday with a BBQ and awards banquet in the Phillips Market Center at the South Carolina State Farmers' Market. The Friday event concluded with outstanding entertainment that featured an acoustic performance by rising country music star and McBee, SC native, Doug McCormick.

The awards that were presented at the Friday evening banquet included: The Farm Shop Award, Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and the Horticulture Award.

Saturday's program began early with a Business Session followed by an Agriculture Issues Panel. The panel consisted of key Agriculture leaders that discussed the Future of Agriculture in South Carolina and key initiatives affecting Agribusiness in the immediate future. Panel members included: Dr. Laurie Lawson – USDA Farm Service Agency, Dr. Steve Meadows – Clemson University, Commissioner Hugh Weathers – SC Agriculture Commissioner, Senator Danny Verdin – Chairman Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, and Representative Nelson Hardwick – Chairman House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs Committee. The moderator for the Panel was Mr. Ronnie Summers of AgSouth Farm Credit.



The Awards Luncheon included recognition of region and state champions in various crop and production categories. An ice cream social with the exhibitors followed lunch.

The Saturday afternoon workshops included a workshop on the techniques of pruning and plant care provided by Clemson University horticulturist and co-star of Making It Grow, Amanda McNulty. Custom Ag Solutions also presented a program on risk management and the Federal Crop Insurance program. The program was designed to help ensure that farmers and ranchers effectively manage their risk through difficult periods, helping to maintain America's robust food supply and the survival of small, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and other traditionally under-served farmers.

The Saturday awards banquet featured the recognition of the Farmer of the Year, the Agribusiness Person of the Year, Advisor of the Year, and Chapter of the Year. A successful and profitable auction, led by Auctioneer Sam Smith of Iron Horse Auction, ended the conference.

State officers elected include **JEB Wilson**, President, Chester; **Chris Bradham**, President-Elect, Mayesville; **Brian Latimer**, Piedmont Region Vice President, Belton; **Tripp Kemp**, Lower-State Region Vice President, Orangeburg; **Frank "Mac" McLeod**, Pee Dee Region Vice President, Sumter; **Jeremy Holtzclaw**, Past-President/ Treasurer, Iva; **Steve Sanderson** serves as Executive Director for the organization. The Advisor for the Organization is **Billy Keels**, State Director of Agriculture Education.



# State FFA Officers Address 85th State Convention

On behalf of the 2011-12 State FFA Officer Team, I would like to invite everyone to attend the 85th State FFA Convention which will be held at Clemson University, June 6-8, 2012. This year, our theme is, "I Believe". This has been a fitting theme throughout the year. Not only do we believe in the future of Agriculture and FFA, but FFA members, we believe in you! Join us for 3 days of belief in the future of our organization as we take our FFA pride to Clemson University. Here are a few highlights of the jam packed 3 days.

The business and general sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts, but students will be all over the campus competing, learning about the history of Clemson, and making new friends.

The first general session will begin at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 6th, with an official welcome to Clemson University by Dean Thomas R. Scott, College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences. Outstanding FFA chapters will be recognized as National Chapter winners in the Superior, Bronze Emblem, Silver Emblem and Gold Emblem categories. A number of scholarships will be awarded to outstanding FFA members during this session. Finally, we will be motivated by our keynote speaker, Mr. Christopher Coleman.

On the morning of Thursday, June 8th, the state finals in eight Career Development Events (CDE's) will be conducted. The second general session will begin at 1:30 PM with the recognition of state champions in CDE's held during the school year. We will also be confirming the State FFA Degrees to our best members.

Thursday evenings session include an inspirational keynote address by National FFA Vice President, Alicia Hodnik, from Walworth, Wisconsin. The FFA Stars over South Carolina Ceremony will recognize regional and state stars in farming, agribusiness and agricultural placement. A number of Honorary State Degrees will also be presented to friends and supporters of the FFA. After the session join everyone for the convention social at the Union.

The closing session on Friday morning will include the announcement of state winners in career development events held during the convention and other recognition programs. We will also meet the 6 new leaders of our State FFA Association as we hear the announcement of our 2012-2013 State FFA Officer Team.

FFA members and advisors, we believe in you. Come join the sea of blue jackets at Clemson.



*Perry Loftis*

2011-2012  
SC FFA State President

# Fun in the Sun! 2012 SCFFA Camp

Located in the Grand Strand near Myrtle Beach, the South Carolina FFA Camp offers campers the chance to enjoy EXTREME challenges, sports, archery, high ropes, team building, water sports, leadership workshops, and MUCH, MUCH more in a fun filled environment! All activities are supervised by an outstanding camp staff.

In addition, organized evening activities are planned that makes for a truly unique event. This year campers will visit Le Cirque Adrenaline, the Sea Screamer as well as other exciting activities.

Last year the camp updated its High Ropes to offer 7 "climbing and traversing" challenges that are over 20 feet from the ground. These elements are done in tandem while always working with others for safety and psychological support. Participants will have the chance to increase confidence, trust, set goals, and increase decision making abilities.

This year, through a grant from CSX Railroad, the camp plans to purchase new Kayaks and some canoes to allow for more fun on the water for campers.

Once you come to camp you will see that it is not just a place to visit, but will become a part of you. The South Carolina FFA Camp is a experience that you will talk about all year long but you will remember it for a lifetime.

Make sure to join us this summer to see what's new, experience a great summer, and make friends you will never forget.





# Beach Cottage Moved to FFA Camp

contributions from Frank R. Stover Sr., Earl Frick and Dr. Phil Fravel



If you have visited the FFA Camp in North Myrtle Beach lately, you may have noticed a new addition. In 2010, the SC FFA Foundation donated a beach cottage formally owned by the Foundation to the South Carolina FFA Association to be utilized at the FFA Camp.

But there is more to this beach cottage than meets the eye. This is a cottage rich in tradition and an integral part of the history of the FFA in South Carolina.

In 1953, the SC Association of Future Farmers of America purchased the property where the current camp is located. The SC Legislature then provided funding to construct the physical structures for the FFA camp. By 1957 the FFA Camp in North Myrtle Beach was opened. At that time, the South Carolina Future Farmers owned numerous camps throughout the state. However, after the construction of this new "state of the art" facility, by 1958, the remaining camps were closed and eventually sold.

The current camp, which is located in the picturesque marsh of Cherry Grove, provided a beautiful and peaceful setting. However, it was clear that the students attending would still need access to the beach. Therefore, utilizing funds from the sale of some of the other FFA properties throughout the state, the SC FFA Association purchased oceanfront lots on what was at that time, the end of Ocean Boulevard in Cherry Grove. These lots provided FFA members access to the beach.

Originally, a concrete block structure was constructed to provide storage, bathrooms and showers for students. Above this structure was constructed a duplex cottage. Both units in the cottage were rented to teachers through the years at a very minimal cost.

In 1958, due to erosion, the beach cottage was almost washed away. As a result, an additional lot was purchased to construct a seawall to protect the cottage. By 1960, once the erosion issue was settled, and due to the popularity of the cottage with the Agriculture Teachers, an additional cottage containing two units was constructed on the newly purchased lot.

By the early 1980s nearly all assets of the SC FFA Association were moved to a newly chartered SC FFA Foundation to manage the funds and holdings in order to protect the tax-exempt status of the SC FFA Association. The Foundation continued to rent both cottages to Agriculture Teachers until 2010. At which time, due to concerns of taxes on the property, as well as the high cost of maintenance, it was decided that the cottages should be removed. Representatives from the FFA Camp led by the chairman of the FFA Camp Advisory Committee, Mr. Fred Raines, met with the Foundation Executive Director, Mr. Frank Stover, Sr. to discuss the possibility of moving one or both of the cottages to the Cherry Grove FFA camp. Mr. Stover took the proposal to the SC FFA Foundation Board and it was decided that the larger of the two cottages would be donated to the camp by the Foundation.

Therefore, by the winter of 2011, the FFA Beach Cottage, under the direction of then Camp Director Zane Bryant, was actually split in half and moved down Ocean Boulevard and Little River Neck Road and was placed on a prepared foundation at the FFA Camp.

Today, the Cottage is available to FFA Chapters to be used for Chapter retreats during the year when FFA Camping programs are not in session.

In staying with the mission of the camp, the facility is only available to educational groups. If your chapter or if you know of a group that is interested in using the facility, please contact Carl Kotz, SC FFA Camp Director at (860) 817-0725. And now you know the rest of the story....

Portions of this article were taken from "A HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM" by Dr. Phil Fravel, Clemson University. For additional interesting stories concerning the history of Agricultural Education in South Carolina go to: <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-04242004-202220/unrestricted/FravelDissertation.pdf>



On October 19th, approximately 600 South Carolina FFA members made the annual trek to Indianapolis to attend the National FFA Convention. Keynote speakers Dave Roever and Vernice "Fly Girl" Armour highlighted this year's convention.

It should be noted that South Carolina had eight American Degree recipients, the most in quite some time. Recipients are: Scott J. Sherard, William C. Sherard, Holly Caughman, Kerry Lee Cox, Seamus Cassidy, Katie Simpson, Joshua Davis Nicholson and Sally Yon

In addition, Charlotte Swafford, Ray Johnson and Barry Hawkins were recipients of the Honorary American Degree, the highest honor offered by the National FFA organization.

South Carolina was also well represented in its participation in Career Development Events where the state Association had teams / individuals in 18 different CDE areas.

The State FFA Officer team served as National delegates and Katie Simpson represented the state as our National Officer candidate.

Congratulations to all who attended the National FFA Convention as proud representatives of the state of South Carolina.



**BELIEVE SOUTH**  
2011 National FFA Convention

Pictured are a portion of the of the South Carolina National Convention

## SC FFA Enjoys Ag Tailgate and Clemson Football

The 2011 CAFLS Tailgate was held on Saturday, October 8 prior to the Clemson Tigers/Boston College kick-off. Once again hundred of FFA members from across the state gathered with thousands of students, alumni and friends of the college to enjoy fellowship, food and fun at Fike Recreation Center. Festivities included a sandwich tailgate lunch, departmental displays, hands-on activities, a silent auction and a "Tasty SC Tiger Tailgate" featuring several SC Certified agricultural producers and products. The event is organized and hosted by the CAFLS Ag Alumni Board



The 84th National FFA Convention was held in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 19-22, 2011. Members attended general educational sessions complete with elaborate sets, lights and music. Throughout the week, there was a myriad of activities for members to participate in - from competing in career development events to participating in the National Days of Service to attending the National FFA Agricultural Career Show or browsing the shopping mall.

Here's a look at the numbers of the 2011 National FFA Convention.

<b>53,358</b>	<b>Number of people in attendance</b>
<b>1,020</b>	Number of FFA members who participated in the National Days of Service.
<b>3,239</b>	Number of FFA members who were awarded the American FFA Degree.
<b>56</b>	Number of Honorary American Degree - Teacher awards bestowed.
<b>174</b>	Number of Honorary American Degree - Other awards bestowed.
<b>9,700</b>	Number of FFA members who attended student workshops.
<b>200,000</b>	Number of square feet occupied by the career show.
<b>140</b>	The number of hotels used during the week of the national FFA convention.
<b>\$40 million</b>	The economic impact that national FFA convention had on the city of Indianapolis.



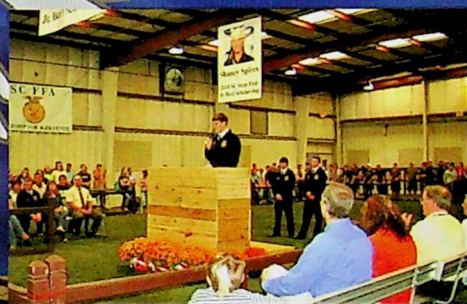




**SOUTH CAROLINA**



More than 600 members  
Delegation attending the  
Indianapolis, IN.



*Above: State Vice President Logan Layne Introduces special guests*

*FFA Members attend the South Carolina FFA Day Assembly in the Nutt Cattle Arena*

*A special note of thanks goes to the Aiken FFA Chapter for providing mums that decorated the Nutt Livestock Arena.*



*Barry Hawkins, retired Agriculture teacher, pictured with Perry Loftis, State President and Cody Bishop, State Vice President who is also a former student of Mr. Hawkins*



*Mr. Ray Johnson, retired Agriculture Teacher and member of the SC FFA Foundation with Hugh McClimon, SC FFA Foundation Chairman*



*Charlotte Swafford serves in financial management for Agricultural Education at Clemson University, pictured with State Vice President Curt Berry and Collegiate FFA Officer, Katie Simpson*

## South Carolina Association of Fairs Presents Scholarships

This year, four \$500 scholarships were awarded to deserving individuals from each of the four FFA regions. These scholarships are to be used towards offsetting academic costs or improving their Supervised Agriculture Experience. The South Carolina Association of Fairs sponsored the Scholarships.



*Trae King a member of the Socastee FFA Chapter, Abigail Alexander a member of the Clinton High FFA Chapter, Nancy Smith, Assistant Manager of the State Fair and a officer of the South Carolina Association of Fairs, Kinsley Reeves a member of the Strom Thurmond FFA Chapter, and Jay Baxley a member of the Barnwell CO. Career Center.*



## Fundraiser for FFA and 4H



**Soil Judging State Winner**  
Pendleton – Cody Bishop - State Secretary; Blake Berry - Advisor, Weston Link, Josh Yeargin, Angel Woody, Adam Willey, Perry Loftis - State President. Pendleton will represent South Carolina at the National Soils Contest in Oklahoma City, OK



**Soil Judging State Runner-Up**  
Loris – Cody Bishop - State Secretary, Hunter Bell, Bryson Daniels, Kayla Todd, Kelsey Todd Nate Bellamy - Advisor, Perry Loftis - State President. Loris will represent South Carolina at the National Soils Contest in Oklahoma City, OK



**Equine Evaluation State Winner**  
Woodmont – Matt Rollins - Advisor, Ashley Strickland, Dakota Wood, Rebekah Welbor, Amanda Strickland, Perry Loftis - State President



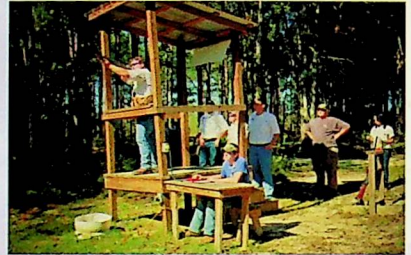
**Wildlife Management State Winner**  
Pendleton – Weston Link, Mac Anderson, Adam Willey, Josh Yeargin, Blake Berry - Advisor. Pendleton will represent South Carolina at the National Contest in Indianapolis, IN.

On October 15, ArborOne in Florence, SC held a Sporting Clays Tournament at the Black River Sporting Clays in Kingstree to raise funds for the South Carolina FFA and the South Carolina 4H.

The Tournament titled “Aim-At-Ag” was a huge success. It was attended by over 100 people who competed in either a Youth Division or an Adult Division. Participants received 100 rounds of sporting clays, t-shirt and use of a golf cart. Awards were presented to winning teams in both divisions. In addition, participants had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets as well as participate in a silent auction.

The South Carolina FFA State Officer team participated in the event and expressed the sincere gratitude from the association for the support of the FFA.

As a result of the event, ArborOne contributed \$9500.00 to both the South Carolina FFA association and the South Carolina 4H. A check presentation to the Association is planned for the South Carolina FFA Association State Convention.



## State Officers Host Chapter Opportunity Workshop

Happy C.O.W.'s happen in South Carolina FFA, or at least that is what the hundreds of FFA members attending this year's C.O.W.'s (Chapter Opportunity Workshops) seem to think. With the start of a new school year, and it being a busy time for most teachers and chapters, SC FFA was very pleased to be able to host record breaking numbers at the 4 regional C.O.W. workshops.

Over 350 students were exposed to the State Officer's workshops on chapter involvement, growth, and development. This hour of time exposed many outstanding chapter leaders to keys to success. This afternoon is meant to help chapters bring their outstanding, officers, members, and risings stars and expose them to these life-changing skills. While it only lasts about an hour, the lessons last a lifetime. State Vice President Logan Layne states, “It helps develop chapters with the goals they have for the future. I had an amazing time! I feel like the members took away something positive that they can take back to their chapters.”

After the workshops, students enjoyed social time in the form of a meal from the hosting schools. Many were also able to mix and mingle with students from surrounding schools. A special thank you to the Pickens Co. Career Center, Latta High School, Pelion High School, and Aiken Career Center for hosting the events. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's events as it hopes it is bigger and better than ever!

HAPPY C.O.W.'s  
COME FROM SC FFA



Chapter Opportunity  
Workshop 2011



## Ag Ed Needs You...Yeah YOU!

If you've never thought about going into Agricultural Education in college, consider the attractiveness of 100 percent employment over the last decade and a 12-month contract waiting for you when you graduate. If your route isn't teaching then rest assured knowing your opportunities to work with some of the best agricultural leaders in the world are right at your fingertips.

Agricultural Education has been a part of South Carolina's history for hundreds of years. It's formal introduction into the classroom in South Carolina began in the early 20th century.

After more than one hundred years of Agricultural Education in the classroom, the programs have done nothing but progressed. But many students, parents, teachers, and business people have asked: "Why Ag Ed?"

A bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education gives students a broad-spectrum knowledge of agriculture and how that knowledge can be implemented into a teaching, leadership, or communications atmosphere. Students studying Agricultural Education often choose an agriculture related minor to bring focus to their studies. The students minor forms the nucleus of their curriculum when they enter the classroom, or the objective of their leadership or communications skills in their career. As these graduates join the workforce, the diversity of their skills help boost innovation in the minds of business leaders, parents and students throughout the state, the region, and the country.

The continued excellence of our Agricultural Education programs, both at the secondary and post-secondary level, cannot prevail without the support of the community and officials. But more importantly, they cannot operate without the dedication of the students.

*Duncan Pfaehler*  
Ag Ed Undergraduate  
CCFFA Reporter

### Strength In Numbers

# 300

The number of professions in Agriculture currently.

# 100

Percent Employment in Ag Ed graduates at Clemson University over the past 10 years

# 20

The number of different agencies that employ Clemson University Ag Ed graduates currently.

# 13

States in which Clemson University Ag Ed graduates work today.



Ag Ed undergraduates and graduates understand the importance of cooperation with public officials. Here a Clemson University group meets with Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers.



Clemson Collegiate FFA promoting the Pendleton Farmers' Society



Clemson University Student Teachers at their last CCFFA event before they begin student teaching.





## AgSouth Farm Credit Sponsors Local FFA Students

Four students from the FFA Chapter of Hanna Westside Extension Campus, Logan Wilbanks, Tucker Wilbanks, Hunter Jones, and Trevor Stamey were each presented with a check from the Anderson



office of AgSouth Farm Credit. These deserving young men actively worked on the AgSouth Demonstration Farm under the instruction of their FFA Advisor, Jay Copelan. The funds received were used to assist with the costs of attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

For many months, these four students have worked in the Demonstration Farm at AgSouth Farm Credit sharpening their skills and learning both farming techniques and how best to market their end product. The students grew vegetable crops including corn, bell peppers, tomatoes, squash, okra, pumpkins, hot peppers and even cotton.

## Aiken Students Present Wreaths to Clemson College of Agriculture

The Aiken High FFA students visited Clemson University to share their beautiful Poinsettias and hand-made, live Christmas wreaths to President James Barker, Provost Helms, Dr. Tom Scott, Dean of CAFLS and School of Agriculture, Forestry, and Environmental Science Director, Pat Layton.



*We want to hear from you!  
Let us know what your chapter  
is doing and you could be  
featured in AgriBiz!*

## McBee High FFA Receives Community Service Award

The McBee High FFA Chapter has been selected as recipient for this year's Agrium Community Service Investment Fund Program Award. A donation of \$500.00 was presented to chapter officers at the company's location in Hartsville, SC. Agrium's purpose in funding this program is to recognize organizations that promote community involvement and encourage student participation in improving the community. McBee High FFA Chapter's mission statement reflects that goal as it states to promote premier leadership, personal growth and career success while actively involved in community development.



## Lexington Agricultural Education Students Contribute Poinsettias to Governor's Mansion

Lexington Technology Center Agricultural Education students continued their annual tradition of producing and contributing poinsettias to decorate the Governor's Mansion for the Christmas Season when they presented the plants to Michael Haley on Monday, November 28, 2011.

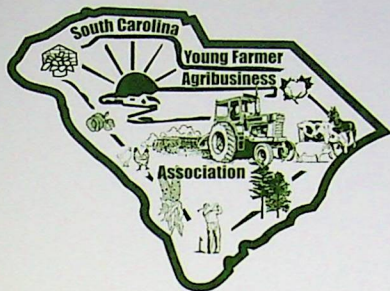


The poinsettias were grown by the students in the greenhouse facility on the technology center campus as part of their training in plant science and production. Approximately 500 poinsettias are grown in the greenhouse and are sold during the Poinsettia Sale to raise funds for all FFA activities.

The Lexington Agricultural Education students are active in the National FFA Organization which encourages community service activities by its members. The Lexington students have contributed the poinsettias for the last eight years and are proud to have their poinsettias on display during open house at the Governor's Mansion.

Pictured above: John Roof, President of the Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter, presents the poinsettias to Mr. Michael Haley.





# South Carolina

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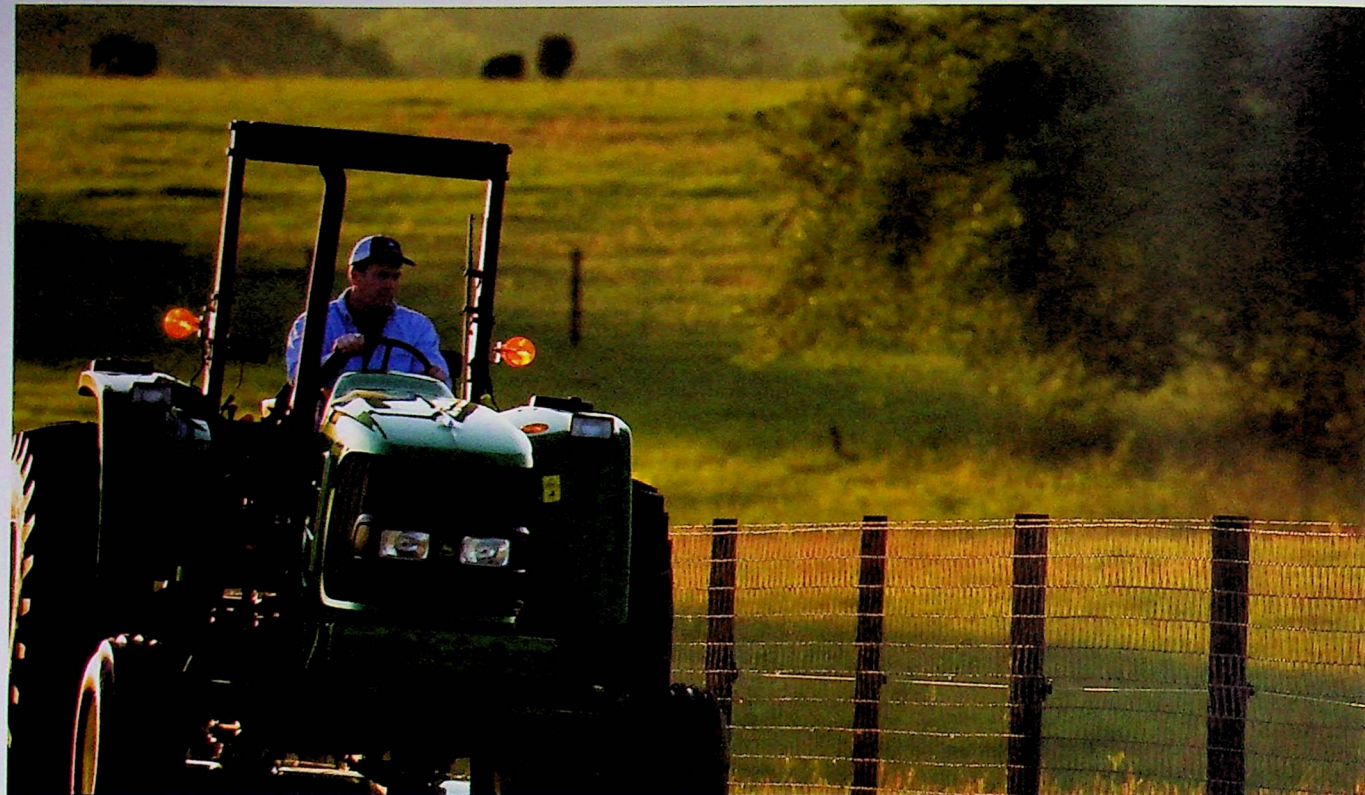
**The South Carolina Youth Farmer and Agribusiness Association (SCYFAA) is a State organization designed to aid interested adults through systematic and organized educational programs on agriculture and agribusiness.**

**For More Information**

**Visit us at:**

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